

The President's Daily Brief

31 March 1969
(Morning)

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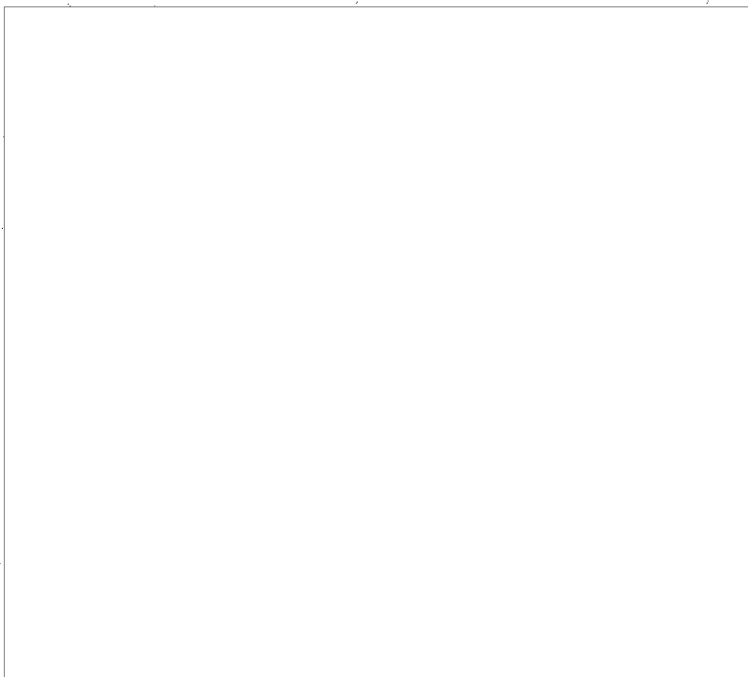
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LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF

31 MARCH 1969



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1 April 1969

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF
31 MARCH 1969

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

SOVIET AFFAIRS

Defense Minister Grechko and several members of the Soviet General Staff flew to Czechoslovakia yesterday. We have no indication whether this quick trip is connected with the weekend demonstrations in Prague or with the military exercises currently going on in Eastern Europe. (Reuters NOR 415, 1 Apr 69)

VIETNAM

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The military situation in Vietnam is generally quiet,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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MIDDLE EAST

There is nothing significant to report.

EUROPE

There is nothing significant to report.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

CANADA

The press in Ottawa says Prime Minister Trudeau will announce the results of Canada's review of its NATO policy in Parliament tomorrow. Embassy Ottawa has been informed, however, that the chances of his doing so are only fifty-fifty. Tomorrow is the last time Parliament will meet before

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the NATO ministerial meeting in Washington. [REDACTED]

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PERU

There have been several recent signs that the government intends to move against APRA, Peru's only well-organized political party and traditionally the archenemy of the Peruvian military. Press reporting from Lima suggests that much may be made of alleged collusion between APRA and CIA in the course of this campaign. [REDACTED] 50X1

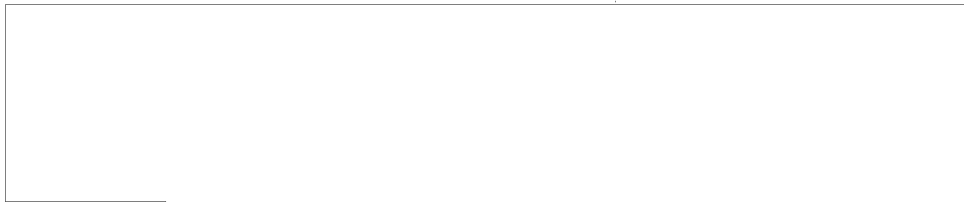
A long-scheduled cabinet reorganization is to be made today. There is no sign that either President Velasco or Prime Minister Montagne will use the occasion to move against the other. [REDACTED] 50X1

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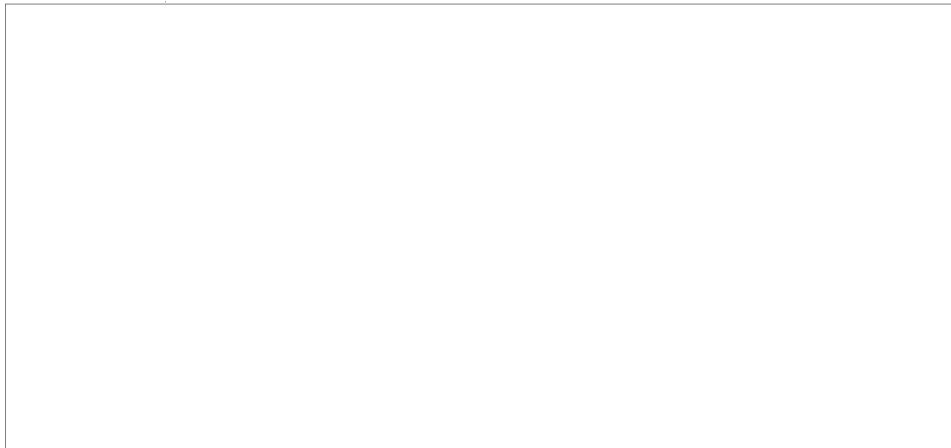
I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

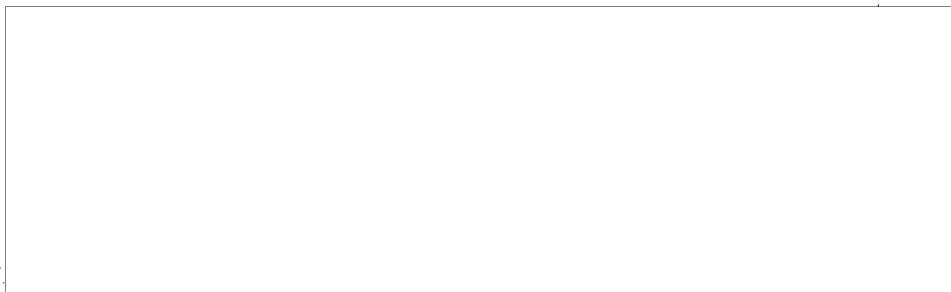
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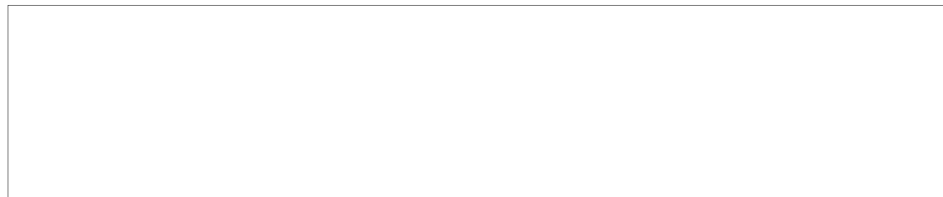
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EUROPE

The Concorde supersonic transport is encountering serious technical difficulties which will probably keep it from becoming an economic success. Of the many problems that have plagued its developers, noise and weight have been the most intractable. It apparently can be heard 21 miles away on takeoff, for example. The passenger load has been reduced from 140 to about 110 in an unsuccessful effort to cope with the weight problem.

The British have begun to voice grave doubts about the feasibility of the whole project, but the French are still enthusiastic, at least in public. The desire for prestige and continued technological gain could still bring the Concorde into limited production and operation.

* * *

The French populace is approaching April's referendum on reform of the Senate and on administrative decentralization with indifference and some hostility, according to the polls. Only 24 percent of those questioned said they planned to vote "yes," 23 percent said they were voting "no," and 53 percent said they had no opinion. Such attitudes only four weeks before the referendum will incite the government to step up its "hard-sell" campaign even further.

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

The Soviets have begun a new attack against Josef Smrkovsky, the Czech reformist and supporter of Dubcek, who was speaker of the Czechoslovak legislature until January. Pravda today charged that Smrkovsky took part in the weekend demonstrations which ended in the sacking of the Soviet airline office in Prague. The paper claimed that this was not the first time Smrkovsky had been involved in an "anti-Soviet outburst." In a warning to the Prague leadership as a whole, Pravda also asserted that the Czech party had failed to criticize publicly the anti-Soviet demonstrations just over a week ago.

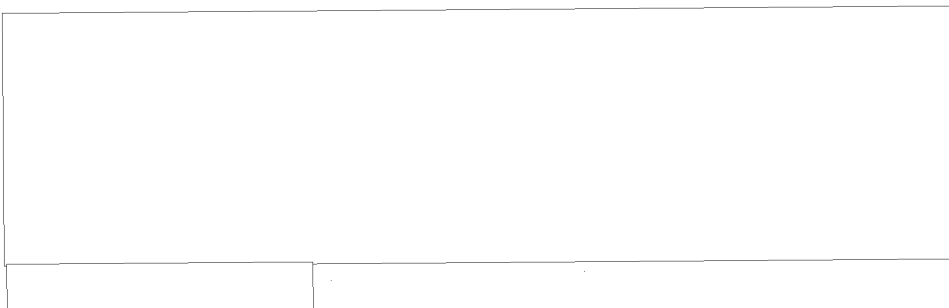
MIDDLE EAST

There is nothing of significance to report.

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

NIGERIA



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